




# HAPPY RETURNS

DECEMBER THE TWELFTH  
NINETEEN FIFTY-FIVE



*The cover picture is taken from a sketch originally printed  
on the cover of the Tac H Journal, issue dated August, 1925.*

# HAPPY RETURNS

A TRIBUTE IN PICTURES  
TO  
'TUBBY'  
ON HIS  
SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY



12 December, 1955



# HAPPY RETURNS

In the early '90's, in a Hammer-smith back garden, young Philip Clayton first meets us, carrying his bat.

*SEVENTY NOT OUT!* And what an innings it has been! It opened in Australia, the home of so much first-class cricket, and it has been continued on the grandest variety of pitches all over the world. Its early promise was shown on the playing-fields of St. Paul's School and of Oxford University, in the streets of Portsmouth and the precincts of Westminster Abbey. And then the game was transferred forty years ago, with consequences decisive and totally unforeseen, to the Battlefield of Flanders.

There followed an interval—but not for tea and a rest, which enlivened the gloomy yard at Knutsford Gaol and then Tubby settled down—has he ever really settled down?—to play the great game of Toc H the world over. Up and down this country, in and out of countless men's lives and homes

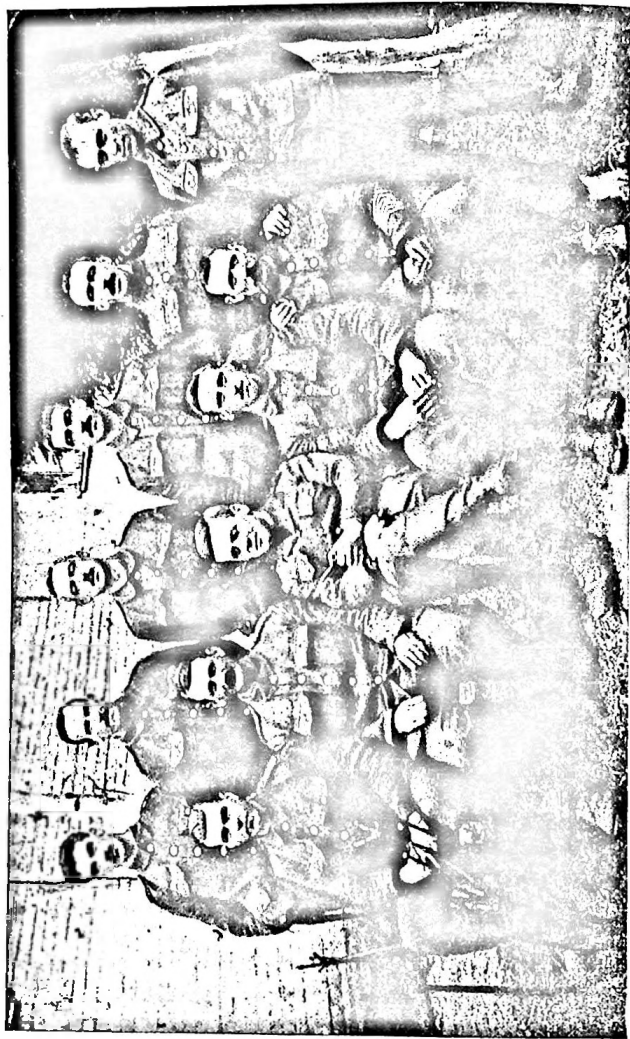
the game has been played, then in turn also in Canada and the United States, in Australia and New Zealand, in India, Ceylon and Malaya, in West Africa and South America and South Africa, in the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf.

And so the great innings still goes on, whether upon the solid ground of Tower Hill, Tubby's favourite pitch that will bear permanently the imprint of his play, or on the rolling decks of ships upon the Seven Seas. It is a game that makes strangers into friends and most unlikely men into members of the team. It has been a hard-hitting innings ever since it opened, full of brilliant strokes that outwit the critics, and it is not yet over. This month Tubby is seventy not out!

If Tubby can no longer be the strong swimmer and devastating tennis-player of earlier days he maintains a restless activity which can outdo many a younger man. Beneath this lies a deep reservoir of scholarship and thinking, of faith and feeling which issues in the wealth of prose and verse which has enriched our Movement and in those intimate letters, written in long nights at his desk, which are treasured by his friends all over the world. Deeper still lies the secret which has sustained his work—his complete certainty that it is not himself but God "who has so wonderfully made Toc H".

And so to Tubby on his seventieth birthday we dedicate this little posy of random pictures and, with loyalty and affection, wish him

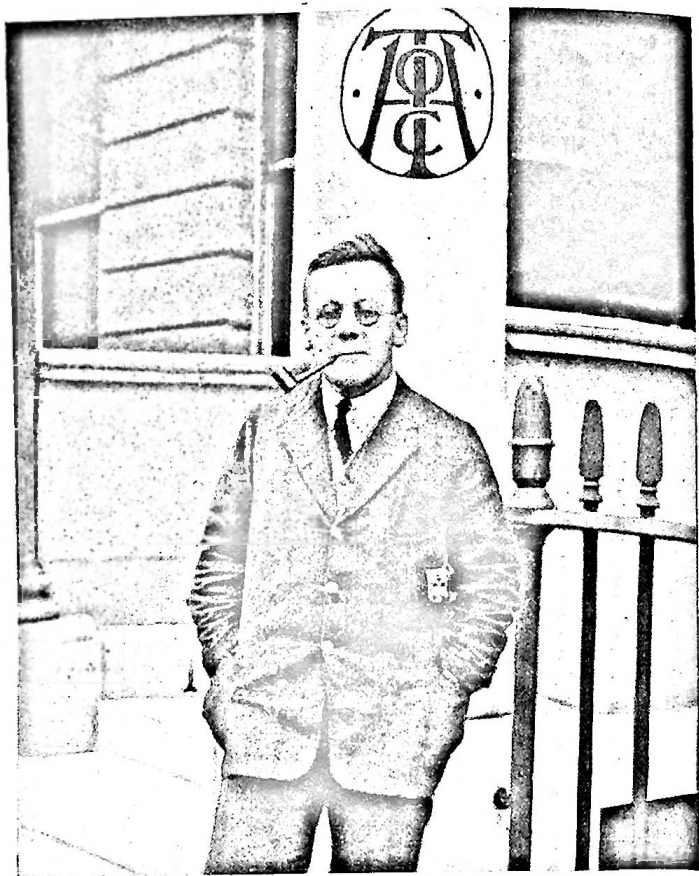
*MANY HAPPY RETURNS.*



1916 In the garden of Talbot House, Poperinge, in war-time. Tubby sits among his staff. One member of it, Pte. Pettifer (seated on extreme right), remained with him until his death in 1954.



**1920** Since War ended Tubby has 'done time' in Knutsford Gaol, training ex-Service men for the ministry. And now he sets out to make his great dream come true—Toc H reborn at home! This is how the late Sir William Rothenstein saw the dreamer in 1920.



**1922** Outside Mark II in the opening week of a great New Year which is to close with the lighting of our first Lamps. Tubby has been up all night getting ready for the first of his many journeys overseas for Toc H; tomorrow he will start for Canada.



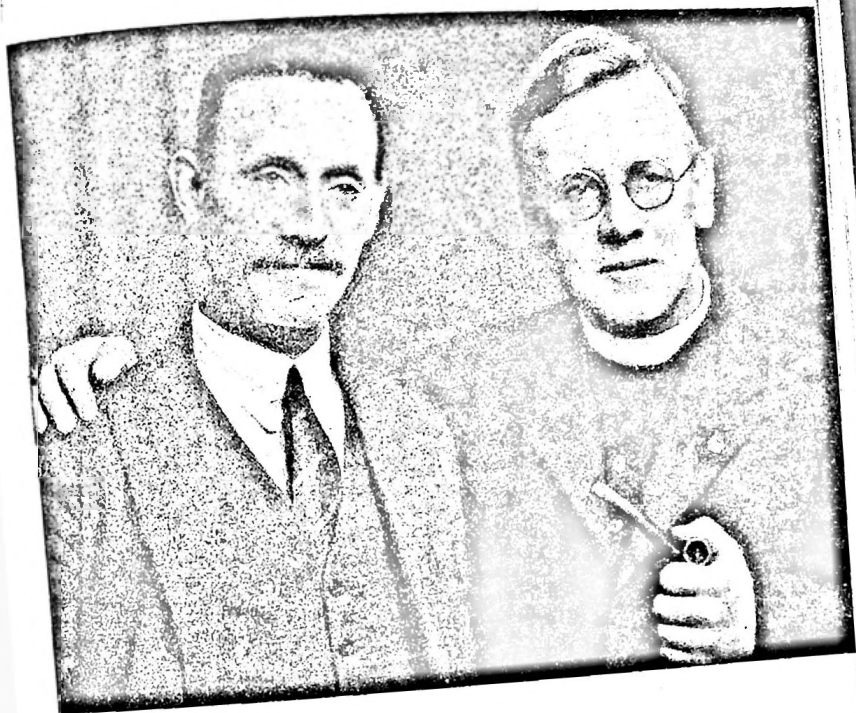


1926 "Time for the next session!" of a Staff Conference which produced the office of the Pilot in Toc H. It was held in a country house, under the same roof as two Victorian ladies, who took a day or two to recover from their first shock at seeing "a clergyman in shorts"!



**1925** (OPPOSITE) Birthday Festival in the Royal Albert Hall. Tubby, just returned from the 'World Tour' in which he and Pat Leonard have carried Toc H to Australia, New Zealand, India and Malaya, kneels beside the Patron, the Prince of Wales, introducing the bearers of the new Lamps which are being lit for the first time.

**1928** Tubby with 'The Gen', Pte. Arthur Pettifer, M.M., of The Buffs, his batman and friend, a Vice-President of Toc H.





1931 Talbot House re-opened. At the door stand, left to right, Tubby; behind him, General Sir Reginald ('Reggie') May, who named the House in 1915; Lord Wakefield, who gave it to Toc H in 1929 and opened it in 1931; Major Paul Slessor, the Old House Secretary, 1929-49; Owen Watkins, Administrative Padre; Dr. Leonard F. Browne ('Browno'), Treasurer of Talbot House, in 1916.



**1931** Talbot House re-opened! At noon on Easter Day seventy Toc H members have marched in fours to the Town Hall of Poperinge to be welcomed by the city fathers. As the company leaves a camera catches Tubby sharing a joke with Burgomaster Lahaye. And why should he not laugh thus today? For in a few minutes Lord Wakefield is to re-open formally Talbot House, his great gift to Toc H of its birthplace.

In the dark days of 1918 who would have dared to foresee this event—or even to forecast the foundation of Toc H as a world-wide Family? And what more fitting token of Tubby's reward for years of work than the return of the Old House to the Movement he has built on its foundations?



1931-32

As Chaplain to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company Tubby pays his first visit to the Persian Gulf. He flies out in Mid-December to the oil-field and comes home in January by the tanker "British Princess".

Caricature of Tubby by Max Beerbohm in "The Spectator", March, 28, 1931.

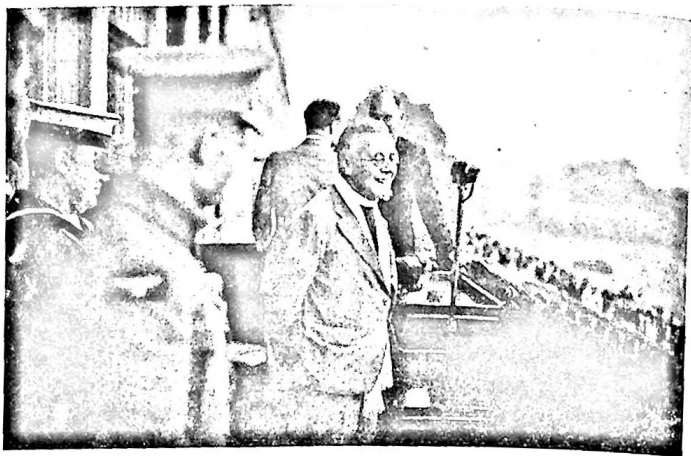


1933

On Ascension Day Tubby beats the bounds of All Hallows parish. Behind him, his curates Cuthbert Bardsley (now Bishop of Croydon), Tom Savage (now Dean of Cape Town) and E. M. Royds Jones; in front two Coldstream drummers.



A portrait of Tubby by the late George Belcher in "Punch", August 31, 1927.



**1936** "Twenty-one to-day!" Tubby speaks from the balcony of the Crystal Palace to 10,000 members and friends at the Coming-of-Age Festival in June. Beyond him are Neville Talbot, co-founder of Talbot House in 1915 and Sir Frederick ('Freddie') Bain, Chairman of the Birthday Committee (both have since died).

**BELOW:** Tubby is 'chaired' by members in the Crystal Palace grounds.







1934 A bronze bust by his friend, the sculptor, Cecil Thomas.



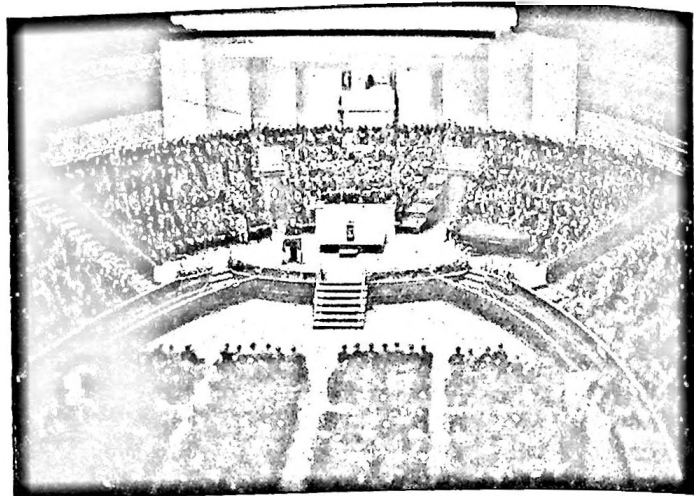
**1939-45** If World War I had spelt for Tubby 'staying put' in Poperinge, the second War meant for him, as for others, restless movement. At the outbreak in 1939 he was posted to a favourite haunt, the Orkneys, among old friends, the Royal Navy. He opened a Club at Kirkwall, specially built, and there infected the Navy men and their Orcadian neighbours with the spirit of the Old House in Flanders twenty years before. Before 1940 was out there were six Toc H centres on the islands round about. At intervals he travelled about England; several times he returned to Tower Hill.

Then he himself put to sea, this time with the Merchant Navy as a tanker chaplain, facing the hazards of war-time on the oceans: Pearl Harbour happened during his first voyage. Landing at San Francisco, he worked his way up along both West and East Coasts of the U.S.A. organising hospitality for British crews. Later voyages took him to India, to the Persian Gulf, to Egypt, North Africa and Malta—everywhere into the arms of Toc H which eventually had over three hundred Services Clubs at work at home and overseas. (Above he is seen with Servicemen at Heliopolis in 1944). Many were the personal losses he had to face—the double bombing of All Hallows, the death of young friends in action and of old—Lord Wakefield, 'Mus' (the earliest member of his staff), Neville Talbot, William Temple. But the old faith sustained him.



**1944** One night in September the B.B.C. news described the liberation of Poperinge from the Germans that day and the joyful scene in Talbot House. As soon as possible Paul Slessor and Barclay Baron (who together had furnished the House in 1930) flew out to refurnish it with all its historic equipment, which had been safely hidden away by the faithful townsfolk.

Now the Old House is open again and crowded with men of the British Army of Liberation. This group, left to right, shows Charles Young, Warden of the House, Tubby (in a Merchant Navy cap), Paul Slessor, Barclay Baron and Shaun Herron, Warden of the nearest T.O.C. H. Services Club at Roulers.



**1948** Toc H Birthday Festival in December. How often have his fellow-members enjoyed this view of Tubby! A lone figure on the stage of the Royal Albert Hall—and yet the undoubted centre of that immense O, which becomes a true family circle of 6,000.



1948 Toc H Women's Festival in October. Tubby talks on the platform with Queen Elizabeth, later the Queen Mother.





**1949** All Hallows rises again out of the grievous ruins in which two enemy raids had laid it. This is July 14, the glad day on which the completed North Aisle, the home of the parent Lamp of Maintenance, is to be rededicated to its age-long work for God and man. Queen Mary has come to attend the service and here she is seen between Dr. Wand, Bishop of London, and Tubby; behind them walk Lord Wavell, then Governor of the Tower of London, and Lady Forster, a Vice-President of Toc H Women's Association.

OPPOSITE: Tubby happily surveys the rebuilding of the old church.

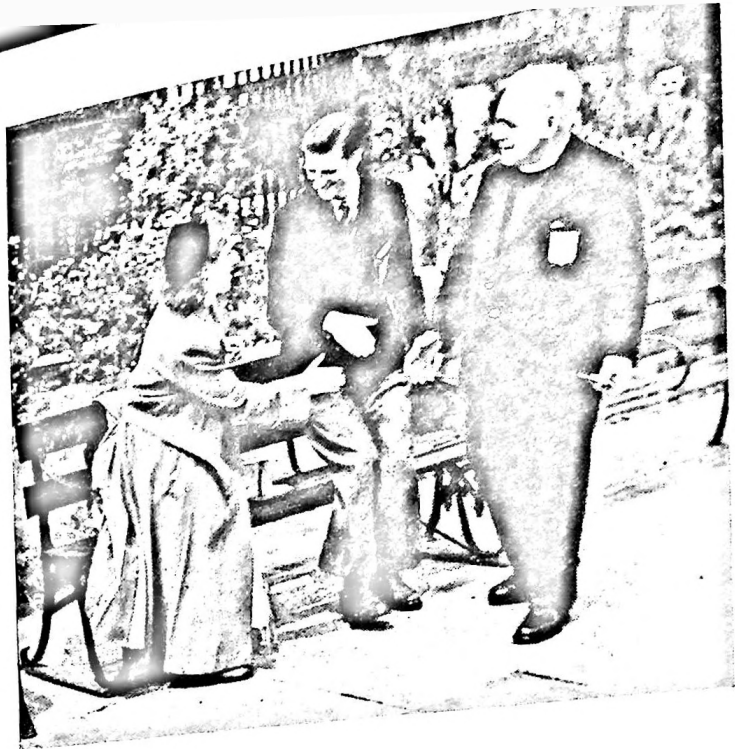


**1953** In war-time Tubby had struck up a warm friendship with John Winant, the United States Ambassador, and had helped him to see and admire the spirit of East London under the 'blitz'. Together they dreamt of young America lending a hand there, and after Winant's tragic death Tubby set out to make the dream come true.

So, in 1948, the first party of 'Winant Volunteers', hand-picked students, men and women, from American universities, arrived in their summer vacation on Tower Hill and were put to work in clubs and settlements in East and South East London. The scheme has grown and prospered and the results may prove it to be one of the most far-reaching strokes of Tubby's fruitful imagination.

Here Tubby sits at his ease among the Winant party of 1953 on top of Vimy Ridge, during the expedition to Poperinge and the old battlefields which is an experience shared by every party.





**1953** "Meet the wife!" As June opened the Queen was crowned and ten days later Toc H celebrates with a great gathering at the Royal Festival Hall, high-jinks in Hyde Park and a memorable service in Westminster Abbey, still in its Coronation dress. Throughout the week-end Tower Hill is a centre of Family Life and Tubby plays host to a crowd of members. Some meet him for the first time and will not forget it—like this member and his wife from the country.



**'ON TOP OF THE WORLD'**

**Tubby, mounting a prehistoric dolmen  
in Cornwall in 1930 bridges the ages.**

## *Tubby's Writings*

*Tales of Talbot House.*  
(a) Chatto & Windus, Sept. 1919; reprinted Oct. 1919, Feb. 1920.  
(b) Toc H, 1925, (grey boards); revised 1928, 1934 (blue boards);  
with new chapter 1942, 1945 (limp covers).

*Plain Tales from Flanders.*

- (a) Longmans, Oct. and Nov. 1929, Feb. 1930.  
(b) Toc H, 1939, 1947.

*The Upper Room.* 'A Study' in verse for the Birthday Festival,  
Dec. 7, 1929.

*Weekday Christianity* (with Rev. L. G. Appleton). Routledge,  
1930.

*Letters from Flanders.* (Some war-time letters to his mother,  
edited by B. Baron.) Centenary Press, 1932.

*Earthquake Love.* (Sixteen essays.) Bles, 1932.

*A Pageant of Tower Hill* (with B. R. Leftwich). Longmans,  
1933.

*Tower Hill Regained* (with B. R. Leftwich). Longmans, 1934.

BANGWENT SERIES, published by All Hallows.

1. *The Gen, in four fyttes.*
3. *The Salient Facts* (with Rev. G. H. Woolley, V.C.).
4. *Fishers of Men.*
5. *A Magic Persian Carpet.*
9. *Great Tower Hill Regained.*
10. *In Death not divided.*
13. *Field Marshal Standfast.*
14. *Toc H in Action.*
15. 'Siddy' (Major Guy Sydenham Hoare).
18. *Earthquake Love.*
19. *Toc H in the Empire.*
20. *A Toc H Ditty Box.*

Also hymns and forms of service, pamphlets (e.g. *Feet Firm, Hands Busy*, 1927) and very numerous articles in *Toc H Journal* and elsewhere.

NOTE: All the above are out of print except *Tales of Talbot House* and *Plain Tales from Flanders*, price 2s. each, obtainable from *Toc H Publications Dept.*



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